In regard to appointment of Vaidyans on pay instead of grants-in-aid, there are many practical difficulties in the way and apart from that, the grant-in-aid system is working quite satisfactorily. That being the case, there is no immediate need to adopt your suggestion.

You advocate the supply of medicines from a central pharmacy. You have heard a member who said that the entire system of Ayurvedic treatment is based on the immediate preparation of herbs and drugs. The nature of Ayurvedic preparations is such that often they cannot be kept and stored to be utilised as occasion arises. These are all difficulties in adopting that suggestion of yours. I have no doubt that in course of time modern methods will be applied in the preparation of drugs and extracts and so on, so that it will become possible in due course to try to adopt your suggestion.

52. Reform of the Ayurveda Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) prefaced his representation with a number of quotations from Western authors in appreciation of Ayurveda. The Ayurvedic system, he said, was admitted to be an excellent system of treatment. In medical science, none had so far excelled Charaka. It was his system of treatment that was prevalent in Kerala.

The Travancore Government was spending about 8 lakhs of Rupees every year on the Medical Department. Much of this money was spent on the purchase of medicines from foreign countries. But there were several medicines in the country which could be used in the place of these. There were several books dealing with this subject. The member illustrated this point with several examples.

In regard to the instruction imparted in the Ayurveda College, the member suggested that the students should be given practical training in the identification of medicines. They should be shown specimens of each drug and they should be able to identify any medicine.

The period of instruction in the college should be shortened in the case of those candidates who had general educational qualifications of a superior kind. A graduate in Arts should, for instance, be required to undergo only a three year's course.

The salaries of the Principal and the teachers of the Ayurveda College should be enhanced.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, I think that if the members of this Assembly and the officers behind me had an opportunity to listen to a dozen such representations we should all feel qualified to be Ayurvedic doctors ourselves.

You expound the theory of Ayurvedic treatment with so much lucidity and so much learning that it makes your representation a very impressive disquisition indeed.

In regard to the position of the Ayurveda Department as a whole, the number of dispensaries and all those other matters which you had not time to state, what I said to the previous member will also bear upon what you stated and what you contemplated saying.

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